





# The Fireman's Journal.

MARCUS D. BORUCK, Editor  
SAN FRANCISCO:  
SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 16, 1855

The New York *Sunday Mercury* is of the opinion, that unless this Journal takes a decided stand for or against one of the candidates for the Chief Engineer'ship who may be in the field, it will be "spiritless and of no force," and that a "Journal in any city advocating the interests of the firemen, must be antagonistic to somebody." Well now, that might all do very well in the city of New York, but would not answer here, even were the "responsible" of the Journal not in official position. The firemen here are composed of different material, the predominant ingredient of which is "an obedience to the will of the majority." When a man is elected to the office of Chief Engineer of the San Francisco Fire Department, all opposition ceases and the bitterest of his enemies bury the hatchet and rally round him to support his administration while he is in power. They do not pursue the same course as that which has characterized a portion of the New York Fire Department, of which the *Mercury* is its mouth-piece, in keeping up and fanning into a more destructive flame, a hostility to the Chief, while in office, which only clogs his administration, endangers the effectiveness of the organization he controls, and which has been the means of bringing down to the ground a Department which has stood unrivalled for years. Had the New York Fire Department, through its leading members and those journals professing to be its organs, pursued a conciliatory course towards Mr. Carson, and forgotten their animosities and dislikes until the proper time came to announce them, the anarchy and confusion which has reigned in that Department for years would never have taken place, and the herculean efforts made in aid of the Legislature of the State to improve its organization, show conclusively that it stood upon a precipice which would require but very little additional weight to overthrow it entirely, a state of affairs brought about by that opposition to the powers that be, which has distinguished the course of the *Mercury*, and which, by intimation, this Journal is advised to pursue. But we will have none of it, and for two reasons: First, is, that the Department here does not require it; the second is, there are a sufficiency of subjects far more interesting to write about.

The firemen of this city are intelligent men and are capable of judging for themselves, know the difference between right and wrong, and in regard to the election of Chief Engineer, (unless the proof was positive that the parties running were disreputable and unworthy to fill the office) all the thunder poured forth in the columns of any newspaper would not deter their ideas and opinions one jot. We do not believe that a determined opposition just for the sake of opposition, or personalities indulged in against men who feel disposed to differ on matters of policy, or the efforts to traduce others to gain your own ends, renders a newspaper of "spirit and force." On the contrary, we think such action degrades it, we believe none can be attained by patting the enemy kindly, then by poking him up with anger.

The Department of this city was organized for a specific purpose, the saving of life and property, it is not a political machine, neither can it be used to attain political ends, and in the elevation of its officers to position, politics never enter the arena, which, we regret to say, has been otherwise in the city of New York. The *Mercury* may rest assured that, although we have announced that we will take no part in the politics of the Department, this Journal will never look calmly on and witness the elevation of any man to the position of Chief whose character will detract anything from its present reputation and usefulness.

The *Toten Talk*, two or three days since, in answering a correspondent, concurred in the propriety of tendering a complimentary benefit to Miss Davenport, prior to her departure for the States. In regard to this particular case of Miss D. we have not a word to say. We entertain too high an appreciation of her character as a lady and an actress to utter a single remark which would wound her feelings, and none regret more than we do, that she did not reap that reward in this country which her eminent abilities entitled her to, but the fact cannot be disguised, that complimentary benefits are getting to be well understood in this community, and reflect no particular credit upon the reputation of the recipients, and it is time that their end had arrived.

Every reputed "Star," whatever line of business they may be proficient in, whether their forte lies in the "Moon lit" scene of Romeo and Juliet, the death scene of "Richard," or the dagger seen by Macbeth, whether Signora this, or Madame that, can pitch their voice one note higher in the scale than the other, or that Monsieur or Muelle, can cut a more artistic pigeon wing or hold their legs up longer and higher in the air than their rivals, whether Patrick O'Flaherty or Rio Hudson can tell out the brogue the best, or whether the "Eclipse" is superior to any other of the same stock, all must, after they are laden down with the gold of California, have a complimentary benefit tendered them for the purpose of evincing the appreciation of the people for the honor done the State in bagging its gold. Pah! we are sick of them, tendered in nine cases out of ten, by those who leave the outsiders to step up to the box office and settle. Why does not the *Toten Talk* and those papers who are so desirous of tendering complimentary benefits, advocate one to be given in aid of the Orphan Asylum of the city, and those societies (for they exist among us) who seek out the aged and indigent for the purpose of rendering them assistance, such a benefit, advocated, carried out and rendered successful through the efforts of the press, would reflect far more credit on them than one to those, who, after they have received for the amount secured, leave the city without leaving a dollar behind them in charity. If the charitable inclined are desirous of giving somebody a benefit at other people's expense, let them give one in aid of Mrs. West, whose husband, and only support was so brutally taken from her by the hand of a murderer. There is a splendid opportunity for those who are "Complimentary Benefit" inclined.

[Since the above has been in type we have read the leader in the *Chronicle* of yesterday, every word of which we cordially coincide with.—Ed.] Mr. Cobb presented to the Board of Delegates on Wednesday evening last, a set of splendid engravings depicting the life of a fireman.

We have been favored with a view of the design of the new Engine House intended for Pennsylvania Engine Company No. 12, which we like exceedingly.

The disposition of the architect (Messrs. Crane & England) in this building has been to divide it into large and spacious apartments, to effect this the lower story is to consist of two rooms, one for an engine room, which is to be twenty-two feet wide, by a depth of forty-five feet, and the other for a committee room, seventeen feet deep. The second story is to consist of a library and a large meeting room, which from its proportions and character of finish, will form one of the most agreeable and convenient rooms in the city, the dimensions being in length and breadth the same as the engine room, and the height to the apex of the arched ceiling being seventeen feet. The interior is to be finished in a good and complete manner, and in conformity with the general character of the building.

The front on Jackson street is to be as elaborate as the dimensions and nature of the building will admit. The line on the street is to be broken by the projection of the center portion, in which there is to be a large door-way leading to the immediate portion of the building which is appointed for the engine, and the recessed portions on either side are to contain small doorways for the admission of visitors. Immediately over the principal doorway there will be a large bay window, which is to be divided into two compartments, and will be twenty-five feet in height, and over the side doors there are to be niches destined for the statues of Penn and Franklin.

The entire front is to be surmounted with a parapet of cut stone, the center portion being elevated above the sides, which gives character and symmetry to the building. The various mouldings, panels and devices are to be formed with brick and cement, which with the entire front will be finished in imitation of stone.

The testimony elicited in the case of Edward Stewart, one of the Bell Ringers on the City Hall Bell, proves that the cupola on the Hall is entirely unfit for the purposes intended. The windows are placed at the four points of the compass, and between each window is a wooden pier larger than the windows themselves, obstructing the view of a large portion of the city. The ladder leading from the look out to the bell is unfit also, and should be constructed so that the Bell Ringer could run up and down rapidly, without the fear of slipping off and losing his life. A year ago something was said about putting up an iron railing around the outside of the cupola, so that the Bell Ringers could have a clearer view of the city during the night, as they could then stand on the outer platform without fear of accident. But the iron railing has not yet made its appearance. The frame work of the bell is out of order, and particularly that portion attached to the clapper, had the Bell Ringer been compelled to ring it a dozen times more during the late fire, the whole thing would have fallen down, and he probably would have lost his life. We are of the opinion that the Bell Ringers have done wonders in discovering and giving the alarm for fires as quick as they have since the bell has been elevated, considering the disadvantages they labor under. Mr. Kenney, one of the Bell Ringers, testified that some portions of it too, being on high ground, was even with the look-out on the City Hall. Under these circumstances, we are more impressed with the idea that Brehman Place is not the proper locality for a bell tower, but that those two extremes of the city, at Bush and Powell streets, and Stockton and Filbert streets, are the best localities, the ground being high, every portion of the city could be taken in at a glance.

We have been informed by the residents of the second ward, in the neighborhood of Hyde and Vallejo streets, where the powder magazine is located, that the "institution" has been a decided nuisance, and a terror night and day to those living near it. One informant states, that at all hours of the day parties are engaged in the magazine repacking powder, and that on more than one occasion while engaged in the work, outsiders have come up and stood in the doorway and looking in at the windows, while smoking—and that a negro who has charge of the building has several times for the sake of amusement, brought out packages of gunpowder, buried them in the earth near the magazine, and having laid a train at a convenient distance set fire to the same. When it is taken into consideration that about one hundred tons of powder are stored in the building, we speak of, and such carelessness as alluded to above, is allowed, there is no wonder the residents became terrified and ask that the dangerous nuisance be abated. We think that the Common Council is the proper authority to inquire into the matter, and if all that is alleged is true, (and we have no reason to doubt it) demand that more care be taken or pass an ordinance removing the powder magazine away from all thickly settled localities. An hundred tons of powder exploding at one time, would cause a much greater crash than that which even attended the late bank failures, and would be more deadly in its effect.

There are too many false alarms of fire occurring in this city productive of no other result than fatigue to the firemen. These alarms are gotten up by outsiders, and not by members of the Department. An excited individual will see what he supposes to be an unusual amount of smoke arising from a locality, and acting upon that principle of pyrotechnics which avers that where there is smoke there must be fire, runs to the most convenient engine house and gives an alarm, and when one apparatus rolls, all must follow suit, for a fireman, when an alarm is given, does not stop to consider whether there is any foundation for it or not, but acting on the impulse of the moment, and anxious to do his duty, will not hesitate a moment. An alarm should not be given by an outsider unless he is morally certain there is occasion for it.

Monumental 6 was out for practice on Saturday evening last, at the corner of Dupont and Clay streets, and forced water 64 feet 5 inches through 60 feet hose, 2 1/2 inch butt, drafting her own water. The distance was measured by Assistant Engineer Free and Mr. S. J. Bookstaver, of No. 1. Shakespeare must have alluded to the Monumental, when he said—"but me no such buts."

The Pennsylvania Engine Company No. 12 took their Engine and Carriage a day or two since to the new scale lately erected by J. Donohue, in the coal yard on Battery street, near Greenwich, to be weighed, when the Engine, with suction, wrenches, &c., ready for service, was found to weigh 4,801 1/2 lbs., and the Carriage, with 600 feet of hose on the cylinder, 1,680 lbs., making the total weight of Engine and Carriage as they are run by the Company, 6,481 1/2 lbs.

## LIST OF FIRES AND ALARMS DURING THE WEEK.

June 9, 7 P. M.—Alarm from Monumental Bell basket charcoal, under restaurant corner Sacramento and Leidesdorff streets; all the Department out; Engines 3, 4, 5 and 7 in service—no damage.

June 10, 9 A. M.—Hall Bell alarm; (taken from Trinity Church Bell) sixth district; frame building in Trinity place—no damage.

June 10, 7 P. M.—Hall Bell alarm; fifth district, caused by the upsetting of a pan of grease on a stove in the upper story of a frame building at the south-east corner of Montgomery and Commercial streets. The entire Department was on the ground. No damage.

June 10, 10 P. M.—Alarm from Monumental Bell, explosion of a camphine lamp in building on Kearny street, near Washington. Whole Department on the ground. No damage.

June 13th, 2 1/2 P. M.—Alarm from "Vigilant Bell," fire discovered in the rear of a frame building, seventy-five feet from Kearny on Jackson street, caused by the ignition of the bed clothes, upon which an inebriated Mexican woman was sleeping, the candle on her table having fallen over on the bed. By the time the alarm was properly given, and with the help of a strong breeze, and owing to the combustible nature of the surrounding buildings, the flames spread with great rapidity, making a passage through the block bounded by Jackson, Dupont, Washington streets, Stout's and St. Louis alleys—and extending its way into Dupont street. The foremen of the various companies as they came upon the ground, took most excellent positions to control the flames, and by their united efforts, untiring work, and the discipline of their men, succeeded in getting the fire under control in about three-quarters of an hour after the alarm was given. The fire spread across Stout's alley consuming the frame buildings at the rear of the brick houses on Stockton street, while, had it not been for the well directed stream of the Vigilants, and bravery of their pipeman, would inevitably have been consumed, and a much greater amount of property sacrificed. The fire was arrested on Jackson street, at a brick building at the corner of Stout's alley, and a more complete man-trap than the said brick building, we have never seen, and it should not be allowed to be reconstructed in its present unsafe condition; it is a wonder that several of the firemen were not killed by its crumbling walls. The fire on Dupont street was checked at a brick building in the centre of the block. The brick building on Stout's alley, also prevented the fire from spreading to Washington street. Pretty nearly all the frame buildings in the centre of the block were destroyed, and it should be a source of gratification to the citizens that an ordinance is in effect which prevents the erection of frame buildings in the burnt district. The number of frame houses destroyed was about forty, together with four brick houses on Stout's alley, and a two story brick building on Dupont street, their total value being about \$55,000. The fire would not have gained so great a headway had it not been for the untoward accident which happened to two of the most powerful engines in the Department. Monumental 6, and Pennsylvania 12, the former, in consequence of the brakeman being tripped up by a loose plank in the street, while going down Dupont street hill, and all control being lost, ran into No. 12, which was taking suction at the cistern at the corner of Jackson and Dupont streets, demolishing one of her after wheels, injuring the coils and levers, and breaking the tongue of No. 6, and levers; fortunately no one was seriously injured, although Mr. Garvin of No. 12, and Mr. Hines of No. 6, were somewhat bruised in the encounter. Those companies were delayed some five minutes in their work, and the fire spread. Engine 1, took her station at the same cistern with No. 12, and did good service. No. 2 drafted from the cistern at the corner of Dupont and Pacific and supplied No. 11. No. 3's company had little 6 drafting water from the cistern corner Washington and Dupont streets, at the same cistern the former kept the same position during the entire night, and forcing water through 900 feet of hose, up Washington street hill, left their stream through Stout's alley, and fought the fire in the brick buildings. No. 5 left this cistern and afterwards drafted water at the Plaza cistern, supplying No. 6, the latter giving her water to No. 10, whose stream was on the fire. No. 11's company did good work until the cistern they were drafting from became exhausted, and they afterwards assisted No. 6. No. 7 drafted water from the cistern at the corner of Kearny and Jackson streets, supplying No. 8. The Hook and Ladder companies were as usual placed in those positions where their services were the most available. This fire appears to have given considerable dissatisfaction to a large portion of the Department, for the reason that they think "it was allowed to grow too large." We think this is a great mistake, for although the citizens look upon the members of the Department as being invincible, yet they are not infallible, and are just as liable to be thwarted for a while, as any other organization. The confining the fire to the burnt district, fully endorses every encomium that has been passed upon the San Francisco Fire Department, by its citizens.

June 15th, 7 P. M.—Alarm from Monumental Bell. The entire Department out. Large quantity of smoke seen issuing from building corner Kearny and Jackson streets—no damage.

Confidence Engine Company No. 1, of Sacramento, have accepted an invitation of "Knickerbocker 6," of this city, to become their guests on the occasion of their visit on the 31 July. From the well known reputation of the "Fires" for courtesy and liberality, the Confidence Company, we are assured, will be elegantly entertained.

At a meeting of California Engine Company 4, held on Tuesday evening last, Messrs. J. W. Lees, J. Schultz, M. D. Boruck, Chas. R. Bond and Adam T. Greene, were elected Trustees to superintend the construction of the new house.

Mons. Bernadelli and Madam M. Thierry have been engaged, and will appear on Monday evening next, at the American Theatre. A more delicate, graceful, and lady like dancer than Madame T., we have never seen, and her accession, as also that of Mons. B. to the stock company of the American, cannot fail to be mutually productive of pleasure and profit.

What have the people who reside in the lower part of the city below Sanson street done that they should be deprived of light? There are thousands residing in that part of the city, and as it is not to be supposed they retire when the sun sets, they should have some light to show them the way to go. Why is it that the Gas Company has neglected the lower portion of the city for so long a time?

## BOARD OF DELEGATES.

The regular meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday evening, June 13th, at 7 1/2 o'clock, at their Chambers in the City Hall.

President F. L. Jones in the Chair; twenty-six members present.

Mr. Jonathan Gavitt, was admitted as a delegate from Howard Company No. 3, vice John McCarty, removed.

Mr. H. A. Cobb was admitted as a Delegate from Hook and Ladder Company 2, vice Isidore Wolff, resigned.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 9th, and Special Meeting, May 22d, were read and adopted.

The rules were suspended, and Mr. John C. Lane was admitted as a Delegate from Volunteer Company 7, vice A. M. Currier, resigned.

Mr. Rand, from the Committee on the accounts of the Treasurer pro tem., reported that the same had been examined and found correct. The report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

Mr. Mahony, from the Committee on the case of J. D. Davis, expelled from Crescent 10, reported that he had been expelled legally, and recommended the action of the Company be sustained.

On motion, the report was accepted, the recommendation of the Committee sustaining the action of the Company was adopted and the Committee discharged.

Mr. Hoffman, from the Committee on a "Fireman's Cemetery," reported progress, and the Committee granted further time.

Mr. Mahony, from the Committee on the Fire Bond Attachments, reported progress; further time was granted the Committee to return a written report to the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Hessefross introduced a resolution that the City Attorney be requested to bring a case before the court upon which all other attachments may be decided.

The resolution was adopted.

The motion of No. 8 not having been committed for, Mr. Walsh was added to the Committee on Bids. (It is understood that Mr. Walsh will bring an action to enforce the payment of the amount appropriated for the lot for his company.)

Mr. Sinton, from the Committee relative to the Department Physicians, reported progress, and further time was granted.

Mr. Moore, from the Committee on the requirements of the Department, made a lengthy report, which was referred back to the Committee.

A motion was made that when the Board adjourn it adjourn to meet on Thursday evening of next week to consider the same. Was adopted.

A communication was received from C. P. Duane, Chief Engineer, charging Edward Stewart, one of the Bell Ringers on the City Hall Bell, with delaying in ringing the alarm during the late fire on Wednesday morning, and striking the "rang district."

A motion that the Board proceed to investigate the charges was adopted. The defendant Mr. Stewart was admitted within the bar.

Mr. Hessefross was sworn by the Secretary of the Board as a witness, called by the Chief, Mr. Hessefross testified as to the lapse of time between the discovery of the fire and the ringing of the Monumental Bell and that of the Hall, stating that he had time to dress himself and get into the street before the Hall bell rang, although Mr. Stewart's was very late. He also stated that the bell struck third district. With the testimony of Mr. Hessefross, the case for the plaintiff rested.

Mr. Stewart, the defendant, then made a statement to the effect that he heard the cry of fire, but saw no cause for the same, and that he heard the Monumental Bell ring, that the wooden pier of the cupola was between him and the direction of the fire, that looking, he saw the flickering of a flame shining in the windows in Jackson street, opposite to where the fire was, and supposed it was in the fourth district, and hastily descending into the street, he saw the flames and the ringing of the bell, and he saw the flames burst out of the building on all sides, and as the centre of Jackson street divides the second and fourth districts, he thought it was wrong in giving the latter and continued ringing for the second. Mr. Stewart stated that he had not altogether in accordance with the rules governing the Bell Ringers, which is, they must not ring the bell until they see a fire, or receive the alarm from a responsible person.

Messrs. Frazier, of No. 12, Mr. Kenney, one of the Bell Ringers, Mr. Moore, of No. 7, and Mr. Edwards, of No. 12, were sworn as witnesses for Mr. Stewart, who testified more particularly in regard to the time elapsing between the ringing of the several bells. The testimony of Mr. Kenney going to prove the unfitness of the cupola for a bell tower.

The defence closed, and after some discussion on the matter, Mr. McCarthy, of No. 1, moved that the defendant be acquitted of the charges brought against him.

Upon which the ayes and nays were demanded, and the following result:

Ayes—Messrs. Hobe and McCarthy, of No. 1, Rand and Gavitt, of No. 3; Boruck and Farrow, of No. 4; Kent, of No. 5; Moore, of No. 7; Brown and Walsh, of No. 8; Cherry and Couch, of No. 9; Sinton and Buckley, of No. 11; Engels and Cobb of Hook and Ladder 2 and President Jones—27.

Nays—Messrs. Vreeland, of No. 5; Hessefross, of No. 6; Lane, of No. 7; Bidon, of No. 9; Hoffman and Mahony, of Hook and Ladder 3—6.

Mr. Stewart was accordingly acquitted.

A communication from the Chief was received relative to the Board recommending to the Common Council the locating of an Engine Company in the Seventh Ward.

A motion to read the constitution and roll of the Company was adopted.

Mr. Shepard, of No. 11, introduced a resolution, "That the Board of Delegates recommend to the Common Council the admission of the Company into the Seventh Ward, and to give them a proper locality."

Mr. Cobb has informed us that prior to his leaving New York, he called upon Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Elson, the gentlemen who are now engaged in engraving the new Certificate of Membership of the San Francisco Fire Department, and conversed with them relative to it. They say the Certificate will not be finished to allow impressions to be taken until about the first part of August, when the number of impressions to be struck off, will be sent by the steamer of the fifteenth of the same month, the plate will be kept in New York and deposited in the bank of America, so that it will be kept in perfect order, and ready at a moments warning to have impressions taken from it.

Mr. Cobb says that he has not seen anything in this country or Europe to compare with the beauty and elegance of the engraving, that the engravers informed him, the work was costing them more than the appropriation, and that as they were only making reputation by it, they were determined it should be faultless, and insisted upon not being hurried in its execution. The Department may rest assured that when this certificate of membership is finished, it will be unsurpassed in artistic beauty and splendor, by any other department or association in the world.

Mr. H. A. Cobb, Treasurer of the Board of Delegates, who has been absent from the city since November last, returned in the steamer "Uncle Sam" last Tuesday. We welcome Mr. Cobb back with sincere pleasure, and are glad to know that he immediately resumes his old position as Treasurer of the Board, and Foreman of Lafayette Hook and Ladder Company, No. 2.

The repairs to St. Francis Truck have been completed at the shop of R. Berry & Co., in Bush street. She is yet to be painted, but will be ready to take her place in the line on the 31 July. We trust that when the Company receive her, they will keep a sharp look out that none but members roll her when an alarm of fire occurs.

At a special meeting of Empire Engine Company, No. 1, held on Monday evening, Messrs. David Scannell, Patrick Hunt, E. M. Cottrell, David C. McCarthy and Charles A. Howard, were elected as Trustees to superintend the building of their new Engine House, of which we gave a description last week.

Howard Engine Company No. 3 leave this city on Monday next, on a visit to their brother firemen in Stockton. The "Howards" are every inch firemen, understand their "profession" thoroughly, and acknowledge no rivals. They are gentlemen in deportment, and every way worthy the attention and courtesy which the "Stocktonians" have announced they will extend to them.

The following gentlemen have been elected Trustees of Vigilant Company 9, to superintend the erection of their new Engine House—viz: John Short, H. O. Gough, C. H. Gough, J. D. Bluxome and J. W. Cherry.

Recorder Waller fired a man named Dorty, fifty dollars, on Thursday last, for driving his cart over the hose while the firemen were at work during the fire on Wednesday morning. Had those who attacked the Lafayette Company received their deserts for their effluence in proportion to that committed by Dorty, none would complain.

Joseph S. Dunlap, one of the pioneers in California Theatrical Management, takes the place of Dr. Spalding, in the management of the American Theatre. We know Mr. D. well, and are assured that the popularity of the American will not deteriorate in his hands. Fully competent as he is to cater for the theatrical taste of the public, the coming season will be a brilliant one and a succession of novelties may be expected unsurpassed in this city.

Pennsylvania Engine Company have applied to the Common Council for an appropriation to make the necessary repairs to their engine, which was damaged in a collision with the Monumentals, and also for other expenses they have been put to in keeping their apparatus in order and purchasing the necessities for their house, which the city is bound to pay for. We trust the proper authorities will listen to their prayer and grant them the desired assistance.

Dr. Volney Spalding, late of the American Theatre, leaves for the Atlantic States to-day, in the "Golden Gate," carrying with him the best wishes for his prosperity of hosts of friends. His return will be gladly welcomed. The Company of the American presented to the Dr., on Friday evening, a magnificent gold goblet as a token of love and esteem. The presentation was done in a quiet and unostentatious manner, fully endorsing the words we have quoted from the inscription.

Mr. Orrin Derby, who was run over on Thursday by a water cart, driven by a man named Greene, died yesterday morning at the What Cheer House from the effects of his injuries. The Coroner held an inquest over the body, and the jury acquitted Mr. Greene of any blame. Mr. Derby, before he died, stated to his friends that he was as much to blame as Greene, and absolved him from all blame.

Professor Risley, the world-renowned "Acrobat," has been engaged and will appear at the Metropolitan on Monday evening, together with Signor Devain.

The election for delegates to the Democratic State Convention takes place to-day, the polls being open from 11 to 3, for, we presume the election will be rather quiet in consequence of the consolidation.

The appropriation made by the Common Council to celebrate the Fourth of July, will scarcely pay "for cakes and ale."

The "Marion Rifles" are nightly drilling at the new armory on Battery street, preparatory to their parade on the Fourth of July. The old order which once characterized the corps appears to have been revived, and they will without doubt make a splendid appearance. Captain W. T. Sherman, of the well known banking house of Lucas, Turner & Co., who has command of the rifles, will never allow them to be a step in the rear of any similar organization in military tactics.

The Street Commissioner says that the property holders are the parties who should attend to the filling up of that "gulf" at the corner of Battery and Pine streets. As they do not seem inclined to do anything in the matter, cannot the Street Commissioner enforce its being done?

The Annals of San Francisco, a beautifully printed and bound book, has been placed upon our table, by the agent, Frank Rivers, 102 Merchant street.

## THEATRICAL.

The performances at the American this week have been well attended, as usual. The inducements to theatre-goers are yet unabated, and as long as the management continue to offer such great attractions, both in spectacle and comedy, so long the theatre will be liberally patronized. To-night, Mr. Lehman's original comedy, performed with great success in the Atlantic cities, entitled the "Millionaire," will be performed for the second time—the author taking the most prominent part. Miss Emma Baker will appear in a favorite dance; and the performance will conclude with the entertaining burlesqued burlesque of the "Deep, deep Sea," with Mrs. Julia Collins, (formerly Miss Gould) as Parsloe; Mrs. Thomas as Amphitrite; Mrs. Judah as Cassiope; and Mr. Wheatleigh as the Great American Sea Serpent—attraction which should be sufficient to fill the house to its utmost capacity.

On Monday Night, Shakespeare's great scenic play of "The Tempest" will be brought forward, with all the original music, new scenery, &c. The play will be cast to the full strength of the company; and as it has been some time in preparation, we may expect to see it produced with perfection. Mlle. Thiery and Mons. Barnadelli have been engaged, and will make their first appearance at the American on Monday night.

Madame Thorne's benefit on Wednesday, and Miss Davenport's benefit on Friday night, were fully attended at the Metropolitan. The theatre, we learn will reopen on Monday night, when, it is said, great novelties are to be produced.

We can only reiterate what has been said time and again, that everybody attends the Minstrels' concerts at San Francisco Hall, and the house is nightly well filled. To-night is set apart for the benefit of Mr. W. D. Corriater, an excellent vocalist and a worthy man. In addition to other attractions the great fabled clarionette player, James Kendall will appear.

It is rumored that the Company which made the application to the Board of Delegates for admission into the Department is not the Company which the people of the Seventh Ward are in favor of, or want. Now we had supposed all along that all the inhabitants of that ward required was an engine, properly manned, and that it would make but very little difference to them who the parties were composing the members, as long as they met their requirements. It would be well for the people of the Seventh Ward to say precisely what they do want, and probably their wants would be complied with, but this shelly-shally manner of doing business, and they will, and they won't, will be the means of driving from the support of the Company applying, those in the Board of Delegates who are favorably disposed in the matter.

The steamer "America" arrived yesterday from Crescent City. The news is unimportant. It appears that Chapman, who killed Captain Best, had been treated very badly by the latter, he having beat Chapman several times before Chapman shot him. It was purely an act of self-defence. The large Saw Mill of Hazelton & Co. was consumed by fire on Thursday, the 28th May. Supposed to be the act of an incendiary. Trade was excellent, and the merchants were doing well.

Private enterprise has done more for the city of San Francisco, to advance its prosperity and aid to its improvements, than any other cause. For instance, Messrs. A. Austin & Co. of 115 Montgomery street, have placed in the front of their building, a magnificent illuminated clock, which at all hours of the day or night, points to the weary traveler how time flies. It is certainly a great convenience to all of our citizens, but to none more so than the "midnight firemen."

The "Golden Gate" of the P. M. S. S. Co.'s line, and the "Sierra Nevada," of the Nicaragua line, leave this morning with the mails, passengers and treasure for the States, the former via Panama, and the latter via San Juan. A large number of passengers go on them.

The annual meeting of the First Light Dragoons, was held last evening at the new Armory Hall, on Battery street, there being a full attendance of the members. The following gentlemen were elected officers of the corps for the ensuing year:—Dr. J. Howell, Captain; J. S. Reed, 1st Lieutenant; J. M. Whaling, 2nd Lieutenant; R. W. Laine, 3rd Lieutenant; J. H. Hess, orderly Sergeant; J. C. Jordan, 2nd Sergeant; J. F. Gel, 3rd Sergeant; J. N. Brooks, 4th Sergeant; S. B. Reed, 1st Corporal; W. Warburton, 2nd Corporal; C. D. Elliott, 3rd Corporal; J. M. Kearney, 4th Corporal; Treasurer, Dr. J. Rowell.

On Thursday night some young thieves broke into the cellar of the *Christian Advocate* building and stole the files of that paper for '53 and '54. Any person to whom they are offered for sale as wrapping paper, will confer a favor by retaining them as they are of the utmost value to the office.

## Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21, 1855.  
To the Foreman and Members of Knickerbocker Engine Company No. Five—  
GENTLEMEN:—Permit us, through your President, Mr. Buckingham, to present you the sum of \$200 (to be disposed of as you may deem proper) as a trilling testimonial of our gratitude for your untiring and valiant conduct displayed at the recent fire on Sacramento street, in saving our property. Your obdt. servts,  
TRUETT & TRUETT.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 10, 1855.

Messrs. Truett & Truett—  
GENTLEMEN:—In behalf of Knickerbocker Engine Company No. 5, I have received from you, through the Foreman, Mr. Buckingham, the sum of \$200 "as a testimonial of your gratitude for services recently rendered" in protecting certain property of yours from conflagration, to be appropriated by the Company in such a manner as they may deem proper.

I am authorized by the Company to say, that while their labors are always voluntary in rescuing the property of citizens from the destructive element, a token such as that you have thought proper to bestow, cannot but be acceptable as an evidence that they have discharged their whole duty in the field of danger to which they have been especially called.

They accept your liberal gift in the same generous spirit in which it was offered, and instruct me to return to you the assurances of their kind regards.

I remain gentlemen, respectfully, &c.,  
J. HORACE KENT.

In answer to a communication from a resident near the late fire, which appeared in the *Evening News*, the Fire Wardens have to say that there is no law whatever, preventing a man from having coal piled up on his own land, or lumber either. As for the fire on Wednesday morning igniting the coal in the "Empire Yard" the "Resident" need not have given himself any fear, for the reason that the firemen did not intend to allow the fire to spread so far, and even if they had, the coal would have been all safe. Any other information the "Resident" near a Coal Yard" may require relative to fires or fire ordinances, will be cheerfully given at their office in the City Hall, by the  
FIRE WARDENS.  
SAN FRANCISCO, June 15th, 1855.







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